1 2 3	Michael E. Sullivan, Esq. #5142 Michael A. Burke, Esq., #11527 Hannah E. Winston, Esq. #14520 ROBISON, SHARP, SULLIVAN & BRUST 71 Washington Street	
4	Reno, Nevada 89503 Email: msullivan@rssblaw.com	
5	mburke@rssblaw.com hwinston@rssblaw.com	
6 7	Telephone: (775) 329-3151 Facsimile: (775) 329-7169	
8	Attorneys for Defendant COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION	
9	SOUTH OF WHOLE OF WITHOUT	
10	UNITED STATES DIS	TRICT COURT
11	DISTRICT OF N	NEVADA
12	MARIA SERRANO, an individual; ELMER APURA, an individual,	Case No.:
13	Plaintiffs,	Second Judicial District Court Case No.: CV21-00468
14	VS.	DEFENDANT COSTCO WHOLESALE
15 16	COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, a State of Washington Corporation; and DOES 1-15, inclusive,	CORPORATION'S PETITION FOR REMOVAL
17 18	Defendant.	
19		
20	D-1-1-1-000T00-1-11-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01-01	
21	Defendant COSTCO WHOLESALE CO	
22	("Costco"), by and through its counsel of record	•
23	Burke, Esq., and Hannah E. Winston, Esq., of th	•
24	& Brust submits this Petition for Removal of the	
25	SERRANO, an individual; ELMER APURA, an	individual vs. COSTCO WHOLESALE
	CORPORATION, a State of Washington Corpora	ation, and DOES 1-5, inclusive, Case No.
26	CV21-00468, assigned to DEPT. NO. 3, in the S	Second Judicial District Court located in
27	Washoe County, Nevada ("State Court") to this	Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1332(a),

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

28

1441, and 1446(b)(3).

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

I. COMPLIANCE WITH PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1. COSTCO was served with a copy of Plaintiffs MARIA SERRANO ("Serrano") and ELMER APURA ("Apura") State Court Summons and Complaint ("Complaint") on or about April 14, 2021. Thus, this removal is timely because the 30-day period for filing the removal has not passed. 28 U.S.C. §1446(b). Additionally, removal is timely because it is filed within one year from when Plaintiffs filed the original Complaint in the State Court action on or about March 17, 2021.
- 2. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(a), COSTCO has attached a true and correct copy of the Complaint filed March 17, 2021 as **EXHIBIT "1"**, and a true and correct copy of the Proof of Service Summons and Complaint file April 16, 2021 is attached as **EXHIBIT "2."**
- 3. COSTCO has provided and served a copy of the Petition for Removal on Plaintiffs, MARIA SERRANO and ELMER APURA, through their counsel Kozak & Associates, LLC, and COSTCO will timely file a copy of the Petition for Removal with the Clerk of the Washoe County District Court as required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(d).
- 4. COSTCO is informed and believes and hereon alleges that no other parties have appeared apart from itself and Plaintiffs.
- 5. Removal from State Court to this Court is proper as this district embraces the place where the action is pending per 28 U.S.C. §1441(a).

II. BACKGROUND

6. Plaintiffs have asserted in their Complaint two (2) causes of action for Negligence and Loss of Consortium against all Defendants arising out of an alleged personal injury which occurred in the Reno Costco warehouse. Plaintiff SERRANO slipped on water or another unknown substance and twisted her right ankle.

III. COMPLETE DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP AS TO THE PARTIES

- 7. COSTCO is informed and believes that Plaintiffs are citizens of Nevada.
- 8. COSTCO is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington and has its principal place of business in the State of Washington.

IV. **AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

9. The amount in controversy in this action purportedly exceeds \$75,000. In the instant action, Plaintiffs sought unspecified damages in their Complaint for an alleged injury to Plaintiff SERRANO. Counsel for Costco spoke with the paralegal for counsel for Plaintiffs, who confirmed that Plaintiff SERRANO's medical bills had not been completely provided but were expected to be in excess of \$75,000 for the hospitalization and surgery(s) of Plaintiff SERRANO's right ankle and follow up care, as well as, the fact that Plaintiff SERRANO has missed two (2) years of work and is unable to work due to her injury that she is alleging was caused by Defendant Costco. See Exhibit "3" (Declaration of Michael Sullivan, Esq.). Thus, the alleged value of Plaintiffs' damages exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of costs and interest.

_ day of April, 2021. DATED this

> ROBISON, SHARP, SULLIVAN & BRUST 71 Washington Street Reno, Nevada 89503

By

MICHAEL E. SULLIVAN, ESQ. MICHAEL A. BURKE, ESQ. HANNAH E. WINSTON, ESQ.

Attorneys for Defendant

COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

1							
1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE						
2	Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of ROBISON, SHARP, SULLIVAN & BRUST, and that on this date I caused to be served a true copy of						
3 4	DEFENDANT COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION'S PETITION FOR REMOVAL on all parties to this action by the method(s) indicated below:						
5	by placing true copy thereof in a sealed envelope, with sufficient						
6	postage affixed thereto, in the United States mail at Reno, Nevada, addressed to:						
7	Charles R. Kozak, Esq.						
8	KOZAK & ASSOCIATES, LLC 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115						
9	Reno, NV 89502						
10	YY book in the Outle ON/FOF Flore in Notific Control of the Outle Only For Flore in Notific Control of the Outle Only Flore in Notific C						
11	_XX_ by using the Court's CM/ECF Electronic Notification System addressed to:						
12	Charles R. Kozak, Esq. <u>chuck@KozakLawFirm.com</u>						
13	_XX_ by email addressed to:						
14	Charles R. Kozak, Esq. <u>chuck@KozakLawFirm.com</u>						
15 16	by facsimile (fax) addressed to:						
17	Charles R. Kozak, Esq. (775) 800-1767 KOZAK & ASSOCIATES, LLC						
18	3100 Mill Street, Suite 115						
19	Reno, NV 89502						
20	by Federal Express/UPS or other overnight delivery addressed to:						
21							
22	DATED this <u>19th</u> day of April, 2021						
23	Blance Duce.						
24	Employee of Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust						
25							
26							
27							
28							

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit #	Description	Pages
Exhibit "1"	Complaint	7
Exhibit "2"	Proof of Service Summons and Complaint	6
Exhibit "3"	Declaration of Michael E. Sullivan in Support of Costco Wholesale, Inc.'s Petition to Removal	1
Exhibit "4"	Civil Cover Sheet	1

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

EXHIBIT "1"

EXHIBIT "1"

1 2 3 4 5	Case 3:21-cv-00182-HDM-CLB Document 1 Code: \$1425 CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ. State Bar No.11179 Kozak & Associates, LLC 3100 Mill Street, Ste. 115 Reno, Nevada 89502 Tel: (775) 322-1239 Fax: (775) 800-1767 Email: Chuck@KozakLawFirm.com	Filed 04/19/21	Page 7 of 24 FILED Electronically CV21-00468 2021-03-17 04:48:45 PM Jacqueline Bryant Clerk of the Court Transaction # 8348583 : yviloria				
7	Attorney for Plaintiff						
8	IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRIC	T COURT OF TH	E STATE OF NEVADA				
9	IN AND FOR ST	ATE OF NEVADA	A				
10	MARIA SERRANO, an individual; ELMER APURA, an individual,	Case No.:					
12	Plaintiffs,	Dept. No.:					
13	VS.	COMPLAINT: 1.	Negligence				
14 15	COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, a State of Washington Corporation; and DOES 1-5, inclusive,		Loss of Consortium				
16 17	Defendant.						
18	COMI	PLAINT					
19	COMES NOW the Plaintiff, MARIA SE	ERRANO an indivi	dual and FLMER				
20							
21	APURA, an individual, by and through their atto	rney of record, CH.	ARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ.,				
22	and hereby respectfully files his Complaint in the	e above-captioned r	natter against Defendant,				
23	COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION a State of Washington Corporation; and DOES 1						
24	through 5, inclusive, and in support thereof states as follows:						
25	I. PA	RTIES					
26 27	1. Plaintiff, MARIA SERRANO (he	ereinafter "Plaintiff	'), at material times hereto				
28	was and continues to be a resident of Reno, Cour	nty of Washoe. Stat	e of Nevada.				
20	The and continues to be a resident of really, com	in the state of th					

2. Plaintiff, ELMER APURA (hereinafter "Apura"), at material times hereto was and continues to be a resident of Reno, County of Washoe, State of Nevada.

3. The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief alleges Defendant, COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION (hereinafter "Costco"), at all material times to the factual situation giving rise to the current complaint is a business incorporated in the State of Washington, who lawfully and regularly conducts business in the State of Nevada.

4. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, copartnership, or otherwise of Defendant Does 1- through 5 are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore, sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore, alleges that each of these fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner for the occurrences and events referred to in this action and proximately caused the damages to Plaintiff as alleged herein. Plaintiff requests leave of this Court to amend the Complaint to insert the true names and capacities of said Doe Defendant, when same have been ascertained, to join such Doe Defendants in this action and assert the appropriate charging allegations.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. The damages sought in this case exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), and therefore, the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe, has jurisdiction of this case.
- 7. Defendant Costco is a State of Washington Corporation who lawfully and regularly conducts business in the State of Nevada.
- 8. Therefore, both jurisdiction and venue are properly with and in the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada and in for the County of Washoe.

///

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 9. On April 1, 2019, Plaintiff was in the condiment area of the snack bar at the Costco store located at 2200 Harvard Way, Reno, Nevada, when she slipped on water or another unknown substance.
- 10. As she slipped, Plaintiff was able to stop herself from falling to the floor; however, she did severely twist her ankle.
- 11. Plaintiff immediately took a seat in the snack bar seating area because her ankle began throbbing with pain.
- 12. Plaintiff then began to walk towards the customer service area to report her injury, on her way there, she noticed a substantial amount of water on the floor, the water went from the snack bar seating area toward the exit door.
- 13. Plaintiff reported her injury to the Costco customer service agent who advised her to file an accident report with the store manager. The Costco customer service agent then took pictures of the standing water and then began cleaning up the water.
- 14. Plaintiff returned to the seating area where a Costco store manager brought her a form to fill out regarding her fall.
- 15. The Costco manager asked Plaintiff if she wanted to go to the hospital, but she declined as she thought the pain would go away after a little while.
- 16. Plaintiff had a job interview scheduled for later that day with Chewy, but she had to cancel it due to the pain in her right ankle.
- 17. After two days, Plaintiffs pain was increasing, and her ankle was beginning to swell.
- 18. Plaintiff was then seen at Renown hospital emergency room with pain and swelling in her right ankle.

- 19. Plaintiff had pain radiating up her entire leg with decreased sensation in her toes.
 - 20. Plaintiff was treated for sprain of right ankle and unspecified ligament damage.
 - 21. Plaintiff was fitted with a boot and sent home.
- 22. Plaintiff was advised to begin physical therapy; however, she was unable to continue therapy because it increased the pain and swelling in her right ankle.
- 23. The physical therapist advised patient that she needed to return to her doctor and let them know that her sprained ankle may be worse than originally diagnosed.
- 24. Plaintiffs follow-up visit with her physician indicated that Plaintiff had moderate-sized plantar calcaneal spur, small tibiotalar joint effusion, partial tear of the anterior talofibular ligament from the talus, a partially torn calcaneofibular ligament and retracted proximally.
- 25. Following this visit, the physician advised Plaintiff to consult with a surgeon, Dr. Lundeen.
- 26. Dr. Lundeen advised Plaintiff that she would need to have surgery on her ankle to repair the ligaments.
- 27. Plaintiffs diabetic APRN, Beth Seibert, asked Plaintiff to hold off on surgery because it could potentially be harmful for Plaintiff due to an increased risk of infection caused by her diabetes. Ms. Seibert suggested that Plaintiff wait until her A1C level went down to 8 or 7.
- 28. On or about mid to late April 2019, Plaintiff was contacted by Jamaal H. Johnson of Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc., who informed Plaintiff that they were investigating her accident. Mr. Johnson admitted to Plaintiff that he saw her slip and that he

saw a "wet spot" on the floor when he viewed the CCTV video from Costco. Mr. Johnson further admitted that Costco was negligent.

- 29. Shortly after these conversations, Plaintiffs claim was transferred to a new resolution manager who then denied Costco's responsibility.
- 30. While waiting on her A1C levels to go down, Plaintiff was unable to wear closed toe shoes, stand on her foot any significant period of time, and had to have her foot raised up to prevent swelling while she was seated.
- 31. As a result of these issues, Plaintiff was unable to return to work due to her inability to wear shoes or stand for long periods of time.
- 32. Plaintiff suffered from server pain, depression, anxiety, and financial hardship for nearly two years. Plaintiff continues to suffer from pain, depression, anxiety, and financial hardship.
- 33. Plaintiff finally had surgery on her ankle on February 1, 2021 and is currently being seen by a physical therapist.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

First Cause of Action- Negligence

- 34. The foregoing allegations are incorporated as this point as though fully set forth in detail.
- 35. Defendants owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and other patrons of Costco to provide a safe environment, including keeping their floor clean and dry;
- 33. Defendants breached that duty, by failing to monitor and maintain a high traffic area that is prone to spills and other debris.

37.	Costco's	breach of duty	was the cause of	Plaintiff's	injuries. Pla	intiff has
suffered, and	will continu	ue to suffer in tl	he future, serious	physical, e	emotional, a	nd financial
injuries.						

38. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of the Costco, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer in the future, serious physical, emotional, and financial injuries, all to her general damage in an amount in excess of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00).

Sparks Fam. Hosp., 282 P.3d 727 (Nev. 2012); Scialabba v. Brandise Construction Co., 112 Nev. 965, 921 P.2d 928 (1996).

- 39. By allowing water to gather on the floor, Costco allowed a dangerous condition to occur on its premises.
- 40. Considering that the dangerous condition existed in a high traffic area where customers routinely consume beverages, often spilling those beverages, Costco knew or should have known about the dangerous conditions.
- 41. There can be no denying that the dangerous conditions, excessive water/liquid on the floor of the snack bar seating area, caused Plaintiffs injuries.

Second Cause of Action-Loss of Consortium

- 42. The foregoing allegations are incorporated as this point as though fully set forth in detail.
 - 43. Plaintiff and Apura are in a valid and lawful marriage.
- 44. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of the Costco, Plaintiff has suffered.

- 1	
1	45. Apura has been injured by his wife's lack of love, companionship, affection,
2	society, sexual relations, solace, and ability to assistance with taking care of their two minor
3	children.
4	45. Apura's loss of consortium is a direct result of Costco's negligence.
5	V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF
6	
7	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MARIA SERRANO and ELMER APURA pray for
8	Judgment against Costco, as follows:
9	1. For compensatory damages, including but not limited to, medical bills, lost wages,
10	future earnings, pain and suffering, emotional distress, inconvenience, physical
11	impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, and "general" losses in an amount to be
12	proven at trial;
13	
14	2. For costs of suit, and;
15	3. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
16	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned certifies that this document does not contain a Social Security number.
18	DATED this 17 th day of March 2021. Respectfully Submitted,
19	
20	
21	By: <u>/s/ Charles R. Kozak, Esq.</u> CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ.
22	Nevada State Bar #11179 3100 Mill Street, Ste. 115
23	Reno, Nevada 89502
24	Telephone: (775) 322-1239 Facsimile: (775) 800-1867
25	Email: chuck@kozaklawfirm.com Attorney for Plaintiff
26	
27	
28	

EXHIBIT "2"

EXHIBIT "2"

(ase 3:21-cv-00182-HDM-CLB Document i	1 Filed 04/19/21 Page 15 of 24
		FILED Electronically CV21-00468
1	Code: 3720	2021-04-16 11:18:18 Jacqueline Bryant
2	CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ.	Clerk of the Court Transaction # 83988
3	State Bar No.11179 Kozak & Associates, LLC	
4	3100 Mill Street, Ste. 115 Reno, Nevada 89502	
5	Tel: (775) 322-1239	
6	Fax: (775) 800-1767 Email: Chuck@KozakLawFirm.com	
7	Attorney for Plaintiff	
8		T COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA TATE OF NEVADA
9	MARIA SERRANO, an individual;	
10	ELMER APURA, an individual,	Case No.: CV21-00468
11	Plaintiffs,	Dept. No.: 3
12	VS.	
13	COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, a State of Washington Corporation;	
14	and DOES 1-5, inclusive,	
15 16	Defendant.	
17	PROOF OF SERVCIE S	UMMONS AND COMPLAINT
18	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Sumi	mons and Complaint were served pursuant to
19	NRS 4, in the above-entitled matter as follows:	COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP. was served
20	on April 14, 2021 at 999 Lake Drive, Issaquah,	Washington 98027-8990 by Colter Norris an
21	employee of One Hour Legal. (See Exhibit 1).	
23	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned	certifies that this document does not contain a
24	Social Security number.	
25	DATED this 16 th day of April 2021.	KOZAK & ASSOCIATES, LLC.
26	DATED this to day of April 2021.	
27		<u>/s/ Charles R. Kozak, Esq.</u> CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ.
28		Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I certify that I am an employee of Kozak & Associates, LLC.; that on the 16th of March 2021, I deposited a true and correct copy of the forgoing, with postage prepaid, with the United States Postal System in Reno, Nevada, addressed as follows: COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP. 999 Lake Drive Issaquah, Washington 98027-8990 /s/ Dedra Sonne Dedra Sonne Employee of Kozak & Associates, LLC

EXHIBIT LIST

2	Exhibit No.	No. Pages	
3	1	Affidavit of Service	3
4			

FILED
Electronically
CV21-00468
2021-04-16 11:18:18 AM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 8398877

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Case 3:21-cv-00182-HDM-CLB Document 1 Filed 04/19/21 Page 19 of 24 IN THE JUSTICE OF COURT OF TOWNSHIP WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA 2 MARIA SERRANO, AN INDIVIDUAL, ET AL., CV21-00468 CASE NO: Plaintiff(s), 3 **DEPT NO:** VS. 4 5 AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, A STATE OF WASHINGTON CORPORATION, 6 Defendant(s), 7 STATE OF NEVADA 8 **COUNTY OF WASHOE** 9 COLTER NORRIS, being duly sworn, or under penalty of perjury, states that at all times herein Affiant was and is a citizen of the United States, over 18 years of age, and not a party to or interested in the proceedings in which this Affidavit is made. That Affiant received a copy of the following document: SUMMONS; COMPLAINT On 4/14/2021 and served on 10 this same date of 4/14/2021 by: 11 (Affiant must complete the appropriate paragraph) at (state address) 1. Delivering and leaving a copy with Defendant 12 2. Serving Defendant COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, A STATE OF WASHINGTON CORPORATION by personally delivering and leaving a copy with STEPHANIE GARDNER - EXECUTIVE LEGAL ASSISTANT, a person of suitable age and discretion residing at Defendant's usual place of abode located at 999 Lake Dr. Issaquah, WA 13 980278990 14 3. Personally depositing a copy in a mailbox of the United States Post Office, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to Defendant at: 15 (For valid service a copy of the signed return receipt must be attached hereto.) 16 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me, on 17 18 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the LODY NORPIS County of , State of Nevada WA 19 My Commision Expires: 4/9/2015 20 6 23 2021 21 OF WAS WAS WAS 22 23 24

25

26

27

28

Date: April 15, 2021

(Server Signature)

Attorney or Party without Attorney:				FOR COURT USE ONLY
CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ. KOZAK & ASSOCIATES, LLC 3100 MILL STREET STE. 115 RENO, NV 89502 TELEPHONE No.: (775) 322-1239	FAX No. (Optional):	E-MAIL ADDRE	: SS (Optional):	
Attorney for: MARIA SERRANO, AN INDIVID	UAL, ET AL.	Ref No. or File No.:	***************************************	
Insert name of Court, and Judicial District and Branch Co	TY OF WASHOF -			
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COO	ORI OF THE STATE OF NEVA	DA IN AND FOR	THE COOK	T OF WASHIELS
Plaintiff: MARIA SERRANO, AN INDIV	IDUAL, ET AL.			y
CORPORATION CORPORATION				
PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL	HEARING DATE:	TIME:	DEPT.;	CASE NUMBER: CV21-00468

- 1. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. I am employed in the county where the mailing occured.
- 2. I served copies of the SUMMONS; COMPLAINT;
- 3. By placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope, with First Class postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Mail at WALNUT CREEK, California, addressed as follows:

a. Date of Mailing:

April 14, 2021

b. Place of Mailing:

WALNUT CREEK, CA

c. Addressed as follows:

COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, A STATE OF WASHINGTON

CORPORATION

999 Lake Dr

Issaquah, WA 98027-8990

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice for collection and processing of documents for mailing. Under that practice, it would be deposited within the United States Postal Service, on that same day, with postage thereon fully prepaid at WALNUT CREEK, California in the ordinary course of business.

Fee for Service: \$ 155.00

County:

Registration:

ONE HOUR LEGAL 2920 CAMINO DIABLO

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

(925) 947-3470

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the The State of California that the foregoing information contained in the return of service and statement of service fees is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on April 14, 2021.

Signature:

PETEK HOUSE

EXHIBIT "3"

EXHIBIT "3"

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL E. SULLIVAN IN SUPPORT OF COSTCO WHOLESALE, INC.'S PETITION FOR REMOVAL

- I, MICHAEL E. SULLIVAN, hereby declare and say under penalty of perjury as follows:
- 1. I am an attorney at law licensed to practice in the State of Nevada and represent the Defendant Costco Wholesale Corporation, Inc. ("Costco").
- 2. I make the instant declaration in support of Defendant Costco's Petition for Removal.
- 3. Plaintiffs sought unspecified damages in their Complaint for Plaintiff Maria Serrano's alleged injury. However, I spoke with Plaintiffs' counsel's paralegal on or about April 15, 2021 who confirmed that she believed Plaintiff's medical bills were unknown, but could be in excess of \$75,000, plus Plaintiff Maria Serrano is undergoing follow up care. I was told Plaintiff Serrano was seeking unspecified damages for lost wages and pain and suffering in excess of \$75,000, plus a loss of consortium claim for Plaintiff Elmer Apura. I was advised that Plaintiff Maria Serrano has missed tow (2) years of work due to her injury that she claims happened at Costco, Reno. Thus, according to Plaintiffs, the alleged value of their damages exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of costs and interest.

DATED this _____ day of April, 2021

MICHAEL E. SULLIVAN

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan & Brust 71 Washington St. Reno, NV 89503 (775) 329-3151

EXHIBIT "4"

Case 3:21-cv-00182-HDM-CLB Document 1 Filed 04/19/21 Page 24 of 24 CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

F F	THE THE PARTY OF	110110 011 11211 1 1102 0		1411.9					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS MARIA SERRANO and ELMER APURA				DEFENDANTS COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, a State of Washington Corporation; and DOES 1-15					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff WASHOE (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Washington (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Charles R. Kozak, Esq., 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115, Reno, NV 89 (775) 322-1239				Attorneys (If Known) Michael E. Sullivar Robison, Sharp, S Reno, NV 89503, (ullivan & E	Brust, 71 Wash			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place on "X" in C	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in (ne Bor fo	or Plaintif
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)			(For Diversity Cases Only) P1 en of This State	rf def	Incorporated <i>or</i> Pri	and One Box for		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	★ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		5	☼ 5
				en or Subject of a reign Country		Foreign Nation		□ 6	6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			l no			here for: Nature o			
		PERSONAL INVEST		PREITURE/PENALTY	T T	KRUPTCY	OTHER S		28
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment ∞ Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	Y	LABOR O Fair Labor Standards Act O Labor/Management Relations O Railway Labor Act I Family and Medical Leave Act O Uther Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION Naturalization Application Other Immigration Cother Immigration Actions	422 Appe	al 28 USC 158 drawal SC 157 RTY RIGHTS rights t t - Abbreviated Drug Application mark SECURITY (1395ff) t Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g)) LTAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	□ 375 False Cla □ 376 Qui Tam □ 3729(a)) □ 400 State Rea □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks an □ 450 Commerc □ 460 Deportati □ 470 Racketeer □ Corrupt Classes □ 490 Cable/Sat □ 890 Other Sta □ 891 Agricultu □ 893 Environm □ 895 Freedom □ 896 Arbitratic □ 899 Administr □ Act/Revie □ Agency Dlesses □ 950 Constituti State State	ims Act (31 USC) pportionn d Banking ise on Influence organizati r Credit TV //Commode tuttory Ac rat Acts ental Matt of Inform on rative Pro pecision onality of	ment g ded and ons dities/ etions ters lation
	noved from	Appellate Court	□ 4 Reins Reop	ened Another (specify)	r District	☐ 6 Multidistri Litigation Transfer	- I	Multidist Litigation Direct Fil	n -
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	1 28 11 8 C 88 1 3 3 1	2(a), 1441, and 144	re filing <i>(D</i> 16(b)(3)	o not cite jurisdictional stati	utes unless di	versity):			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	The state of the s	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	•	EMAND \$ 75,000.00		HECK YES only i	if demanded in o	complain No	ıt:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
DATE 4.	-19-21	SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY C	F RECORD					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
RECEIPT#AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	GE		